

task: to shake one of the Government's largest and most diverse departments out of its dormancy, and turn it into forceful, focused, and effective agency. At his confirmation, he expressed the following among his priorities for the Department of Commerce: "Expanding exports, promoting new technologies, supporting business development—these all require integrated action, crossing old lines between business, labor and government." Ron Brown was an expert in crossing old lines, whether racial or bureaucratic, whether he was rejuvenating the Democratic Party or reinvigorating the Department of Commerce. He could see potential where others couldn't, and he had that unbeatable combination of vision and determination that was contagious. He inspired those around him.

In addition to his political acumen and leadership abilities, Ron Brown was extremely likable. I remember walking down the corridors in the Hoover Building seeing signs on employees' office doors that read "Ron Brown Fan Club." Even those misguided few in Congress who spent the last year trying to abolish the Commerce Department found their efforts thwarted by the simple fact that so many businessmen and Members of Congress not only believed in the importance of Commerce—but also that everyone simply liked Ron Brown.

This is a tragedy that hits home for me, Peatsy, and my staff. Ron Brown was a good friend. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to Alma, his children, and all the families of the passengers and crew of the aircraft.

Mr. President, let's all remember Ron Brown for his firebrand style of engaged public service. We'll all miss him. I wish we had more like him.

TRIBUTE TO DR. THOMAS F. WEAVER

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Thomas F. Weaver, a man who devoted his life to ideas and to education. Tom died earlier this month at home in Rhode Island and his sudden passing came as a shock to all who knew him.

Although he was in his midsixties, Tom was an active athlete and an inspired educator. As chairman of the department of environmental and natural resource economics at the University of Rhode Island [URI], his aggressive intellect, his warm spirit, and his enthusiasm all reflected the energy of a much younger man.

Tom worked closely with my staff for more than a decade in planning the \$24 million construction of buildings that will comprise URI's Coastal Institute on Narragansett Bay. Indeed, the building to be erected on the university's main campus will include a policy simulation laboratory that would have been his pride and joy.

Although the Coastal Institute will be the result of work by many talented and committed individuals, Tom stood

out as the workhorse who followed every development. He helped nudge the process along to assure that USDA matching construction funds were secured. My staff and I were only too glad to help.

The University of Rhode Island is now perfectly positioned, as both a land grant and a sea grant college, to develop the Coastal Institute. It is my hope, and a hope I know Tom shared, that these closely related natural resources disciplines will meet and grow at the Coastal Institute.

The University of Rhode Island's Coastal Institute went through the most rigorous USDA feasibility review, including a peer review. Its funding has been approved step by step in a painfully rigorous appropriations process that began in the 1980's.

Tom was there every step of the way, providing information, drafting testimony, and helping me to pave the way for approval.

As I advised Congress, using information that Tom polished with my staff, the primary mission of the Coastal Institute will be to carry out research and analyze policies to better enable society to manage its coastal resources wisely.

In Tom's words:

The strength of the Coastal Institute will be multidisciplinary teams addressing complex problems in a holistic manner. The Institute will take advantage of the information superhighway and long distance interactive communication.

The Rhode Island-funded half of the Coastal Institute facilities are nearing completion of URI's Narragansett Bay campus. The federally funded half are in the bid preparation stages for buildings there and on URI's Kingston campus.

I am deeply saddened that Tom did not live to see the completion of the Coastal Institute. It will be an institution that is unique in the world and will include, housed in the building on the Kingston campus, a policy simulation laboratory that also will be unique.

The private sector has been involved almost from the start, thanks to Tom, in the concept and design of the policy simulation laboratory. When the lab is up and running, the private sector is expected to be an active participant in its programs.

The policy simulation laboratory will represent, more than anything else at the Coastal Institute, the vision of Tom Weaver. He conceived it, helped design it, and looked forward to running it as a unique resource for educators, businessmen, and government officials.

The Coastal Institute represents an extraordinary mix of scientists and researchers from disparate academic disciplines. As I mentioned, it combines two of the greatest strengths of the university—which has an international reputation for both land grant and sea grant programs.

Anyone who knows of academic politics at the university level can imagine

how difficult it must have been to forge that alliance. With help from countless friends and diplomatic guidance from colleagues, Tom's determination was one of the forces that made it happen.

I have focused on Tom's work on the Coastal Institute, simply because I shared his enthusiasm for the academic adventure, the scientific possibilities, and the very real benefits that it will provide. But he was a far more complex man.

My staff and I noticed that Tom, who always kept his eye on the goal, could be stunned by a well-deserved compliment. He was so busy driving toward his objective and encouraging others, that he never seemed to notice the excellence of his own hard work and leadership.

I know he will be missed by all who knew him or were touched by his teaching, but I hope everyone who uses the policy simulation laboratory will remember him. They will be there working side by side with his determined spirit.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll. The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ACCOLADES TO LANE KIRKLAND

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Joseph Lane Kirkland, who last summer announced he would not seek reelection as president of the AFL-CIO. Lane Kirkland has been a friend since I arrived in Washington in 1972. He and his wife, Irena, are a great partnership, a great team, and my wife Colleen and I have been very honored to be their friends.

Lane Kirkland is the son of the modern South. Born in 1922 in South Carolina, he is the son of a cotton merchant and was raised in the textile town of Camden. As a child in the 1930's, Lane Kirkland had classmates who lived in mill villages and worked as sweepers in the mills after school. Seeing the conditions under which they lived and worked convinced Lane that unions were needed to protect workers. He held that view and still holds that view. He certainly devoted his life to that view.

Like some of his childhood friends, Lane's wife, Irena, endured a painful, indeed, a traumatic and tragic ordeal early in her life. Irena survived the concentration camps of World War II, and when the Communists took over her native Czechoslovakia, she was imprisoned just before she escaped the country. Irena's firsthand experience of oppression and, indeed, terrible, terrible tragedy, deepened Lane Kirkland's already strong concern for the freedom of people all over the world. Irena has been a strong partner